



Beta Sigma Psi

Manhattan Alumni Chapter

COVID-19 Update

July 16, 2020

The most recent K-State plan is to resume on-campus learning in the fall, with classes beginning on August 17 and the last day of in-person instruction on Nov. 20. The last two weeks of the semester, Nov. 30 to Dec. 11, will be completed using distance methods.

The situation continues to be fluid, as the recommendations and guidance from the various agencies are still changing as we learn more. We have leaned on guidance from the American College Health Association along with local and national government sources as we plan for the fall. The key learning has been that primary transmission appears to be air droplets rather than surface contact. The most effective methods to minimize transmission all limit close contact for extended duration. Surveillance and contact tracing are necessary to limit widespread exposure.

Some of the outwardly visible changes for the fall will be:

- Wear face masks in public spaces when visitors are present
- Maintain 6 ft. separation
- Limit speaking / singing / shouting
- Daily temperature readings for all students
- Maintain log of contacts (vendors / visitors)

The active chapter is preparing to document specifics around those changes and others. We will be looking to the Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) group in addition to the K-State administration for additional guidance as the semester progresses, and intend to comply with their recommendations.

If you have questions not addressed below in the Frequently Asked Question list, please let me know.

1. Will we allow students to stay in the chapter house during the remote learning period after Thanksgiving?
 - a. The board of directors will be open to petition for hardship cases to be accommodated on a case by case basis, but this would be counter-productive with respect to the goal of local containment so this option will be discouraged.
2. Will our food service from Greek Chefs be different this fall?
 - a. Greek House Chefs (GHC) will institute additional precautions including COVID-19 training, health monitoring and wearing of PPE
 - b. The meal plan will be close to the same as no evidence of transmission via food service has been found. However, GHC will have some modified procedures for this fall as a precaution.

3. Are there any active chapter social events impacted?
 - a. The current Riley County health order prevents mass gatherings (non-family members unable to maintain 6 ft. separation) of more than 50 people. Any social events will be planned to comply with applicable rules from all governing bodies (FSL, KSU, Riley County, State of Kansas, etc) at the time of the event
 - b. Parents weekend, homecoming and tailgating will likely be different this fall, but the details of any changes are yet to be determined
4. Will the active chapter continue to hold meetings?
 - a. Subject to rules on mass gatherings, meetings will continue as close to normal as possible.
5. Has the budget been impacted by the COVID-19 situation?
 - a. The rental income from the active chapter to the Alumni Board will be subject to a partial refund to the chapter given as a credit in the 2020-2021 academic year so we are able to meet our normal expenses, including the tax payment and promissory note payments that occur in the summer.
 - b. We are tracking the cash flow projections previously made that show us cash-positive through the fall 2020 semester, being frugal and working only the necessary items.
6. Has there been any impact to summer projects?
 - a. The front yard improvement project is proceeding as planned. The trees have been removed and the grass has been killed. Grading, sprinkler system installation, and seeding by Blueville are next on the schedule
 - b. Tuck-point repair on front porch brick has been done, along with some electrical work near the front patio.
7. What changes to the house-cleaning and maintenance will we see?
 - a. A professional cleaning service will be utilized before the semester start to provide a thorough cleaning of common spaces (dining room, lobby, etc).
 - b. Public areas will be wiped down twice each week with approved disinfectants
 - c. High traffic items (doorknobs, etc) will be wiped down daily
8. Have we been able to rush potential new members for the fall semester?
 - a. We have 9 new associate members signed at this point and anticipate approximately 35 men living in the chapter house this fall. We have much more square feet per member than most fraternities.
9. Will we be able to have visitors to the chapter house?
 - a. Visitors will be allowed, subject to a Covid screening that includes a temperature check
 - b. A log will be kept of all visitors to the chapter house to facilitate contact tracing if that becomes necessary
10. Will we require student certification of virus-free status before move-in?

- a. We are asking all students to follow COVID-19 screening guidance (ref. [Riley County Health Order 14](#)) and believe that their signature on the honor code indicates their compliance.
 - b. KSU is also asking students to follow the “[Every Wildcat a Wellcat Pledge](#)” as they return to campus for the fall.
11. What happens if a student exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 and tests positive?
- a. We would encourage symptomatic students to return home for convalescent care and recovery if they are ill.
 - b. The active chapter is planning to administer quarantine and isolation using blocked out eating times, bathroom times and mask wearing.